

Upton Scott Stable
4 Shipwright Street
Annapolis
Anne Arundel County
Maryland

HABS No. MD-246-A

HABS
MD,
2-ANNA,
6A-

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Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

UPTON SCOTT STABLE

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Location: 4 Shipwright Street (on the northeast side, at the intersection with Revell Street), Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Present Owner: Redemptorist Fathers (1964).

Present Occupant: Convent of the Teaching Sisters of Notre Dame.

Present Use: Abandoned.

Significance: One of two similar outbuildings for the Upton Scott House.

PART I. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The stable is a good example of eighteenth century outbuildings attached to the Upton Scott House.
2. Condition: The exterior walls have long cracks in several places. The cornices have deteriorated at the northeast end.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The one and one-half story stable measures 21'-6" by 35'-7" and is rectangular in plan. The main elevation faces southeast.
2. Wall construction, color: The walls are of brick, 13-1/2" thick, English bond on the northeast side and Flemish bond on the others, laid in lime mortar. The northwest wall has been painted.
3. Structural systems, framing: The structural system of the stable consists of brick load-bearing walls.

There is an open timber roof, consisting of rafters 3"-4" by 4-3/4" spaced 21" on centers, with collar seams, 3"-3-1/2" by 6", 7'-9" above the floor. At the top of the side walls is a wooden plate, 3" x 5-1/2", which carries a short horizontal timber 3" x 6-3/4" by 22-1/2" long, on whose outer end the rafters rest. At the inner end of each short timber is a 3" x 3" short vertical street connecting to the rafter. This timber construction, which helps form the cornice, is nailed with wrought iron nails. There is no ridge pole. The rafters are lapped and pegged. Collar beams are dovetailed to rafters.

All timbers are hewn. At each corner, one timber at the cornice line extends 5'-2" along the gable wall, being embedded in the brick work. Roof sheathing boards are 9-1/2" to 12" wide.

4. Openings:

- a. Doorways and doors: A main doorway is located left of center on the southeast wall. It has a segmental arch at the top. Within the masonry opening is a heavy timber casing, with a bead molding at the door opening. Within the segment of the arch is a board with a cyma reversa molding along the lower edge. The door is of board and batten construction, and is hung on two wrought-iron H-L hinges. This door appears original, or at least very old. A smaller doorway of similar design is located on the same wall near the northeast end. The door itself is a replacement. On the northeast wall, near the northwest corner, is a door opening, now partially closed with brick, in which a modern window has been inserted. There is a door in the southwest gable, on center (described below with the interior of the loft). Its segmental arch has been rebuilt in recent times.

Doors and windows, second floor: There is a board and batten door, hung on two H-L wrought iron hinges, with a square wrought iron bolt on the second floor level. It is set into a timber casing with pegged joints. This was probably used for loading hay into the loft.

- b. Windows: Original window openings appear as narrow vertical slits on the exterior 4-1/4" wide by 1'-2" high. They are splayed to a width of 1'-1" on the interior. There are three at the first story on the southwest end, and three to the loft on each long side. Two, now closed, occur at the first story of the northwest side wall.

These first-story openings are now fitted with inside shutters hinged at the top. The shutters do not appear to be original. There is evidence of two larger window openings (2' 8" x 3' 9") at the first story of the northwest side wall which had segmental arches. One is bricked up completely, the other is partially bricked up and closed with boarding. (See description below, on interior).

On the southeast wall, just right of the larger doorway, is a window approximately 3'-0" wide by 2'-6" high. The sliding sash is modern, as is the opening. A slightly larger modern window is located on the left side of the northeast end wall.

A nearly square window, on center, in the gable, on the northeast end wall, is an original opening. Its exterior trim is similar to that of the doors (except that the end is not arched). The sash is a replacement.

An interior shutter on a window in the northwest wall appears quite old. The shutter is board and batten, hung on wrought-iron H-L hinges, with a wrought-iron bolt.

5. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: The stable has a gable roof that is covered with modern sheet metal over wooden shingles.
- b. Cornice: There is a wooden box cornice that extends along the two long sides. It has a narrow frieze with bed moldings consisting of cyma reversa and ovolo, corona and cyma recta. Cornice moldings are returned at each end without carrying around the corner. Splices in the cornice were made with scarf joints. Modern sheet metal gutters, greatly deteriorated, hang from the cornices.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. First floor: There is a stable at the southwest end. Two smaller compartments, separated by a brick partition on the long axis, are opposite the stables. Each is reached through an exterior doorway.
- b. Second floor: The second floor is rectangular in shape, with a single room, originally used as a hayloft.

2. Stairways: In the south corner of the first floor, there is a narrow, steep stair leading to the loft. It has plank treads housed in slots of plank stringers with wedged tenons going through the stringers. There are no risers. There is a simple modern handrail, and a railing around the well above.

3. Flooring: Much of the first floor is paved with brick, but an area once occupied by stalls, the north corner of the stable, is now covered with concrete. There is a low brick platform (1" high) at the west corner. The floor pitches toward a point about six feet inside the main (southeast) door, where there may have been a drain. The two smaller rooms are floored with brick, the one at the east corner is several inches higher than the other. It may have been used for stabling, since there are traces of a hay chute above. A narrow opening at the northeast end of the brick partition which divides these two compartments appears to have been opened after the original construction.

The second floor has matched 7-3/4" yellow pine floor boards, although there are other sizes of the boards which vary anywhere from 6-1/2" to 11-3/4". Openings for hay chutes, now closed, occur along the northeast and northwest ends of the stable below.

4. Walls and ceiling: The first floor walls appear to have been finished with a thin coat of plaster, most of which has disappeared. There are also remains of whitewashing. The inside surface of some bricks has crumbled. Hewn joists, measuring 3" x 10-1/2", spaced about 16" on centers, span the width of the building. The ends of the joists rest on a bearing plate, which is a plank built into the brickwork of the walls.

The second floor has brick sidewalls which extend 4'6" above floor level. The ends of these walls extend upward as gables.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: This building forms one of a pair placed symmetrically at either side of the Dr. Upton Scott House (MD-246). In its present location it is at the west corner of the property, which is enclosed by brick garden walls. The southwest end is on Shipwright Street, which was opened some time after the construction of the Scott house and service buildings.

Edited by: Eleni Silverman
Historian
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From reports
Prepared by: Harley J. McKee
Architect
National Park Service
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